

Maine Coastline

News from the Maine Coastal Program

Spring 2006



Support from the Land for Maine's Future Program, Maine Coastal Program and other sources enabled the City of Calais and the St. Croix International Waterway Commission to conserve Devil's Head, a dramatic 315-acre headland overlooking the St. Croix estuary.

Tom Moffatt

Conserving Coastal Lands

Maine residents recognize that their coastal lands are a valuable and threatened resource. Over the past two decades, voters have consistently affirmed their support for the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF), which acquires natural and recreational lands of state significance. Due to the high public value of coastal lands, LMF has dedicated significant funding to projects that conserve marine and upland resources and provide coastal access for recreation and resource harvesting. To date, LMF has completed 75 projects in coastal zone communities, permanently protecting 25,293 acres.

The most recent LMF bond, passed last November by 65 percent of voters statewide, included \$2 million dedicated to preserving working waterfronts. This new measure reflects a growing awareness that the integrity of Maine's coast depends—not just on preserved natural lands—but on conserving a way of life that has defined coastal Maine for generations. Along the state's 5,300 miles of coastline, only 75 miles are ideal for commercial working waterfront use (according to a State study). The new Working Waterfront Preservation Pilot Program (see page 8), funded by the LMF bond, may help to ensure that the shorefront lands needed to sustain fishing and other water-dependent industries remain a part of Maine's coastal landscape.

Beyond the LMF Program, there are many initiatives underway to protect Maine's coast—some based in federal and state agencies, some at the municipal level, and others at private nonprofit land trusts. Maine has more than 90 local and regional land trusts. A 2004 survey completed by the Maine Land Trust Network reported that 47 coastal land trusts (not counting statewide groups) have completed 500 acquisitions totaling 18,985 acres. In addition, they hold 504 conservation easements on 22,089 acres. Maine Coast Heritage Trust, a statewide land protection organization, has conserved more than 120,000 acres, mostly along Maine's coast and islands. As of 1997, state and federal agencies owned more than 159,143 acres in coastal zone communities (according to a Conservation Lands Inventory completed by the State Planning Office) and they have acquired more acreage since then.

Coastal land protection is, in many ways, a foundation for the work that the Maine Coastal Program does in the areas of planning, education and policy-making. This issue of *Maine Coastline* celebrates the land conservation efforts of the Coastal Program's many partners and highlights the Program's growing involvement in coastal land conservation.



Director's Column

March 2006

It's hard to briefly summarize the land conservation work that happens along Maine's coast because the efforts are so varied and numerous. Even a single community may have multiple projects underway. Using maps from the State's Beginning with Habitat program (see page 7), a town planning board may change its zoning to better protect its most ecologically valuable lands. Meanwhile, the local land trust might apply to the State's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program, seeking matching funds for a key purchase. The land trust might even approach the Maine Coastal Program to see if its project would qualify for funds under a federal program designed to support coastal and estuarine land protection (see pages 4-5). Some of the town's residents may volunteer with the local land trust, while others serve on the town's harbor committee—working to improve shore access.

The Maine Coastal Program lends behind-the-scenes support to many local and state land conservation initiatives. Coastal Program planner Jim Connors provides ongoing support to LMF on coastal access projects and provides technical support and training to towns interested in protecting commercial fishing access. Liz Hertz, another Coastal Program staff member, helped establish the State's Beginning with Habitat Program, while our Habitat Restoration Coordinator—Jon Kachmar—administers a grant program that helps coastal communities sustain the health of their estuaries. Other MCP staff help to direct numerous entities involved in coastal land protection. For example, Coastal Program staff member Theresa Torrent-Ellis serves on the board of Friends of Maine Seabird Nesting Islands, helping guide their educational outreach (see next page). And each year, the Coastal Program helps to sponsor the annual Maine Land Conservation Conference, which gives more than 300 land trust volunteers and staff members an opportunity to share information and resources.

In addition to the conservation articles, there is a readership survey in this edition of *Maine Coastline*. We continually seek to improve Coastal Program publications and we welcome your feedback to help guide future changes. Please take a moment to complete this one-page survey form and return it to us by mail. The form is also posted at our website, www.maineoceanprogram.org, if you prefer to reply on-line. Thanks very much for your input!

Kathleen Leyden, Maine Coastal Program Director

Maine Coastline

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Protecting Maine's Seabird Nesting Islands

Maine's coastal islands provide critical nesting habitat for a wide array of seabirds such as puffins, eider ducks, petrels, guillemots, razorbills and terns. Among Maine's 4,613 islands, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has designated 377 as nationally significant seabird nesting sites, only 250 of which are permanently protected.

Each species nests in different habitat types (such as rocky crevices, grasses, shrubs and trees) so several species often inhabit the same island. Dense nesting patterns can help birds defend against predators like mink and fox, but the colonies are vulnerable to other disturbances—such as habitat loss, oilspills, disease, weather, and human interference (particularly during nesting season which typically runs from April through August). The wet spring in 2005 wreaked havoc on many of Maine's coastal nesting colonies. "The timing couldn't have been worse," says Linda Welch, a biologist with the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge in Milbridge. "At the time birds are most sensitive, just as they are returning, we had 6 days of high winds, 20 foot seas and 7 inches of rain." The tern colony on Petit Manan Island alone, she notes, dropped by a third in size.

Since researchers began regular counts of nesting seabirds in the 1970s, many species have increased in number. "We've had a promising recovery spanning 20 years," Welch notes, "so we're hopeful that the declines of the past two years won't persist."

Over recent decades, ornithologists have gained a better understanding of how dietary needs and predation affect seabird populations. Researchers monitor predators, institute control measures where needed, and use sound recordings and decoys to lure seabirds back to traditional nesting islands. Many variables affecting the health of a colony, though, remain hard to gauge—such as the potential stress from long migrations, the degradation of birds' wintering grounds, and changes in the marine food web due to global warming.

Keeping track of seabird numbers is an ongoing task that requires extensive collaboration among individuals, private organizations, and state and federal (both U.S. and Canadian) wildlife agencies. Seabird researchers in Northern New England and the Canadian Maritimes have come together regularly for two decades as part of the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group—to share data, discuss their findings, and talk over seabird management concerns. "It's a very successful partnership," Welch reflects. "The same population of birds rely on islands throughout the Gulf of Maine, so it's key that we work together."

Friends of Maine Seabird Nesting Islands

Since 2002, the Maine Coastal Program (MCP) has assisted efforts to protect Maine's seabird nesting islands. Theresa Torrent-Ellis, who coordinates MCP's outreach and education efforts, helps direct the non-profit organization Friends of Maine Seabird Islands (FOMSI) that supports the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge in its work to conserve and restore seabird-nesting habitat.

"FOMSI seeks to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of seabirds," Torrent-Ellis says, "and is working to establish a Coastal Education Center that would offer ongoing exhibits and programs." FOMSI assisted the Refuge in developing its newly completed 15-year comprehensive conservation plan—which calls for a new Refuge education center and creation of educational materials for schools located near Refuge sites. Torrent-Ellis also has helped FOMSI secure grants for program development and for special events.

"The Coastal Program has championed many FOMSI efforts to date, helping to launch our recent sign campaign and supporting outreach efforts and board development," reflects Charlie Blair, who manages the Maine Coastal Islands Refuge complex. "Theresa brings to FOMSI a wealth of beneficial connections and contacts throughout the state."

The Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge and Friends of Maine Seabird Islands (www.maine seabirds.org, 207-236-3383) are working with state, federal and private island owners to place signs on 150 of Maine's most vulnerable seabird nesting islands. These

"universal symbol" signs will help inform boaters, before landing, that island access is restricted during seabird nesting season (from April through mid-August). "Signs are now up at all the Refuge Islands," says Deputy Refuge Manager Brian Benedict. "We plan to post educational signs this spring at the most popular marine launch sites, and brochures will go out this year with Maine boater registration materials. We're also mailing materials to kayak guides and outfitters so we hope that most boaters will recognize this symbol by the time the 2006 boating season is underway."



The Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Program

The Coastal & Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP), a funding initiative launched by Congress in 2002, may provide an important source of federal funding for land protection projects in coastal Maine. To date, CELCP funds have gone toward three projects in Maine (see below) that met its criteria for having significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values; being threatened by conversion to other uses; and having the capacity to be effectively managed. The \$3.1 million allocated to Maine projects so far has come from congressional allocations, but there could be dedicated funds for the program in the future. “We only can speculate now as to what will happen at the federal level,” says Jim Connors of the Maine Coastal Program, “but we’ll be looking for projects to submit to NOAA next fall—assuming that some funding will be there.” The Coastal Program coordinated the development of a CELCP Plan for Maine, specifying criteria for project review, scoring and nomination to NOAA. This collaborative process involved input from more than 40 representatives of land trusts, conservation organizations, municipalities, and state and federal agencies.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is currently reviewing two CELCP applications nominated by the Coastal Program, which manages the CELCP Program in Maine. The applications are for projects in Maquoit Bay, Brunswick (see below) and Stockton Springs (for a project that would augment access to Stockton Harbor). For more information on the next round of CELCP applications, contact Jim Connors (287-8938 or jim.connors@maine.gov).

CELCP Recipients in Maine

Maquoit Bay, Brunswick

Some of the best commercial clamflats in Southern Maine lie in Maquoit Bay, a shallow, 5-square-mile embayment located in the northern reaches of Casco Bay. This prime shellfish habitat is highly vulnerable to runoff pollution, and the Town of Brunswick has adopted a Coastal Protection District zoning ordinance to limit development in the Bay’s watershed.

When one of the last undeveloped shorefront sites along the entire coastline of Brunswick came up for sale—with 171 acres and nearly a mile of saltwater frontage along Maquoit Bay—the community knew that it had to protect the land. Supported by The Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Town of Brunswick sought funds to acquire this critical parcel. The property includes freshwater streams, vital habitat for many terrestrial and marine species, access for canoe and kayak launching, and nearly a mile of trails for walking and cross-country skiing.

The Town sought \$2 million in CELCP funding but was awarded only \$550,000 initially. It plans to seek additional CELCP funds and LMF support in 2006.

Royal River Estuary, Yarmouth

The first CELCP funds allocated in Maine helped acquire 47 acres of shorefront land near where the Royal River enters Casco Bay. According to Yarmouth Town Manager Nat Tupper, this “spectacular piece of land offers a little bit of everything—with extensive saltmarsh, freshwater upland, a beautiful pond, upland forests, and lovely vistas of the river.” The property was zoned for residential use and listed on the market when neighbors began organizing an effort to protect it, drawing significant help from the nonprofit Trust for Public Land (TPL). “This project was a perfect fit for our mission,” says TPL’s Sam Hodder, “as we protect land for people.”

The Bayview Estuary Preserve, with trails for walking and cross-country skiing, is one of the town’s largest undeveloped coastal parcels—affording critical wildlife habitat as well as community recreation. Rising coastal land values have made it difficult for fast-growing towns like Yarmouth to preserve such tracts: “we’re desperately close to losing our remaining open space,” Tupper says, “given the intense development pressures at work.” To protect this acreage required a significant commitment of town resources, matched by private contributions, \$650,000 from the State Land for Maine’s Future Program, and nearly \$1.6 million from the federal CELCP Program. “The project helped inspire the donation of an easement on 18 acres just upstream of the protected property,” says Hodder. “Now both that property and the 47-acre town preserve are permanently protected by conservation easements held by the Friends of the Royal River.”

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The shorefront parcel along Maquoit Bay offers prime habitat for shorebirds and shellfish, as well as opportunities for community recreation.



CELCP funds helped the Town of Yarmouth to acquire 47 acres of shorefront along the Royal River estuary.

“The Bayview Estuary Preserve, with trails for walking and cross-country skiing, is one of the town’s largest undeveloped coastal parcels—affording critical wildlife habitat as well as community recreation.”

Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative, Greater York Region

Another CELCP grant is helping to fund three major acquisitions in southernmost Maine, part of an ambitious landscape-level project known as the Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative (MtA2C). “This is the fastest growing region of Maine,” says MtA2C Coordinator Roger Cole, “so it’s imperative that we move quickly to protect the highest priority lands in our 48,000-acre project area (which extends across six coastal-zone communities).”

Three high-ranking properties identified by MtA2C partners are being protected with CELCP support. The first encompasses 212 acres of steep-sloped forest in the upper York River watershed. A proposed development would have converted the land into an 80-home subdivision, fragmenting an intact 4,000-acre forested block and threatening water quality downstream. With \$500,000 in CELCP funds, state support from the Land for Maine’s Future Program, and private funds from The Nature Conservancy, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife purchased the property last November to incorporate into its adjoining Wildlife Management Area.

The second property, slated to close this spring, will protect an additional 200 acres adjoining a State Wildlife Management Area near Mt. Agamenticus. Purchase funds from the Town of York and the York Land Trust will be supplemented by \$150,000 in CELCP funds. The third property, located in Kittery, is still under negotiation.

Maine Coast Protection Initiative

More than 70 conservation organizations and land trusts in Maine have joined forces to form the Maine Coast Protection Initiative (MCPI), a coalition working to increase the pace and effectiveness of coastal conservation in Maine. MCPI has three long-term goals:

- 1) To create a viable network of conserved lands that protects critical coastal and estuarine habitat, commercial and recreational shore access, and sufficient scenic viewsheds to preserve the coast’s unique character;
- 2) To build the professional and technical capacity of land trusts, helping them to engage in strategic land protection and ongoing stewardship; and
- 3) To provide increased funding for coastal land protection



To help meet these goals, MCPI has begun offering three types of grants (see below) for organizations engaged in coastal land protection. Unlike the federal CELCP program, MCPI does not support land or easement acquisitions: its funds are directed primarily toward building organizational capacity.

MCPI has awarded nearly \$163,000 to nonprofit or state organizations that seek to further goals 1 and 3 of the coalition (see above). Recipients of the first round of implementation grants are listed at http://www.protectcoastmaine.org/Grants/IG_Awards_Summary.htm. As part of this grant round, the Maine Coastal Program received \$23,000 to create a process by which communities coast-wide can learn how to inventory and prioritize their scenic and cultural resources.

MCPI is raising funds to make \$350,000 available to land trusts this year through capacity-building grants that seek to strengthen the long-term effectiveness of coastal land trusts by building organizational capacity, helping trusts reach new levels of leadership.

GIS grants will also be awarded in 2006 to help coastal land trusts and their partners build their technical capacity. Approximately \$70,000 will be distributed, along with ArcGIS software donated from the Environmental Systems Research Institute.

For further information on MCPI, contact Amy Owsley at 207-729-7366 (or aowsley@lta.org).

Managing Recreational Use on the State's Coastal Islands

During the 1990s, public use of Maine's State-owned islands increased dramatically—as coastal populations grew and more people got out in powerboats and kayaks. Some of the State's more popular islands began showing unwelcome signs of shoreline erosion, campsite sprawl, and human waste.

The Maine Department of Conservation (DOC), which manages approximately 50 State islands for public recreation in partnership with the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA), began work on a 10-year Recreational Management Plan to address these challenges. MITA and the DOC invited active participation from the island's primary users—such as recreational visitors, kayak outfitters, and windjammer crews. The resulting plan, the product of a three-year collaborative process, was completed late in 2003 and formally adopted by the DOC.

The high level of public engagement in island planning has paid great dividends, observes Steve Spencer, Outdoor Recreation Specialist with the DOC. “The Plan outlined voluntary use guidelines and capacity limits on the number of overnight campers. By and large, those have been a real success. There's a sense of responsibility that accompanies public ownership and this process tapped into that.”

The Plan recommended that a task force be created to measure impacts of island visitation over time. For two years now, the task force has tracked environmental indicators on seven pilot islands – mapping campsite dimensions, inventorying trail conditions and locations, and tracking indicator species (such as the percentage of rockweed cover at landing areas). “We're mapping a wide range of variables at this stage,” says task force chair Natalie Springuel, of Maine Sea Grant, “to capture a diverse array of environmental factors that could change over years of use.”

The next phase of research, to begin this summer, is “social monitoring”—conducting surveys to determine how visitors perceive the islands and what affects their experience. Task Force members also hope to get a better grasp of visitor numbers.

It will take several years for the Task Force to compile cumulative data, but anecdotal reports suggest that the islands may be faring better than they were a decade ago. “We're not seeing the exponential growth in visitation that we were in the mid-1990s, and there seems to be some recovery on the harder-used islands,” Spencer observes. “The kayaking industry appears to be realigning itself—with fewer outfitters offering multi-day trips.” MITA's Trail Manager, Dave Mention, visits many State-owned islands repeatedly during the summer and has not seen visible degradation occurring over the season. “The islands seem to be in pretty good shape overall,” he notes. “They're certainly not getting worse and in some cases, they're getting better.” Mention believes the Plan's emphasis on voluntary compliance and self-regulation has been a great success: “It's remarkable to me how well the guidelines are being adhered to.”



MITA Trail Manager Dave Mention measures campsite dimensions on a State-owned island during a task force monitoring trip.

Conservation Resources for Landowners and Communities

What Conservation Looks Like in Maine (available on line at http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/pdf/What_Conservation_looks_like.pdf), a four-page brochure produced by Maine Audubon, outlines a wide range of ways that land is conserved—from private tools like conservation easements and corporate conservation initiatives to State resource plans, wildlife management areas and public reserved lands.

Conservation Options: A Guide for Maine Landowners (available on line at <http://www.mcht.org/options/index.html>) is a 40-page handbook that describes a wide range of voluntary land protection techniques. Topics include conservation easements, methods for donating and selling land, and tax implications. Paper copies are \$5 from Maine Coast Heritage Trust (info@mcht.org, 207-729-7366).

The Public Benefits of Conserved Lands (available on line at http://www.mcht.org/pdf/Public_Benefit_Brochure.pdf) is a 20-page handbook that describes the varied ways that conserved lands benefit Maine communities—stimulating the economy, fostering public health, providing recreational opportunities, protecting drinking water, nurturing wildlife and supporting environmental education. Case studies from around Maine highlight specific ways that protected lands have enhanced local quality of life. Paper copies are \$3 from Maine Coast Heritage Trust (info@mcht.org, 207-729-7366).

Beginning with Habitat: A Habitat Approach to Conserving Maine's Landscape (available online at <http://www.beginningwithhabitat.org/pdf/BWHtext.pdf>) is a 52-page handbook that outlines how communities can go about identifying and conserving key tracts of ecologically significant land. The handbook complements the town-specific maps that the Beginning with Habitat Program offers.

Island Ethics: Recognizing and Protecting Colonial Nesting Seabird, Waterbird and Waterfowl Islands in the Gulf of Maine is an educational brochure on ways to minimize human impacts on seabird nesting islands. For a copy, contact any U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office (Falmouth: 781-8364, Rockport: 236-6970, or Milbridge: 546-2124).

The Maine Coastal Program helps communities keep track of existing public access through a Right-of-Way Discovery Grant Program. Every year, the Coastal Program awards small grants up to \$2,500 to municipalities or local land trusts to research forgotten or overlooked public rights-of-way (including those to the shore). Since the program's inception in 1994, 38 coastal communities have received 58 grants. For more information, contact Jim Connors at the Coastal Program (jim.connors@maine.gov, 207-287-8938).



Staff Profile: Liz Hertz

Protecting Essential Coastal Habitats

Five years ago, the State launched an innovative landscape approach to conserving Maine's native plant and animal species. The Beginning with Habitat program is a cooperative venture

in which federal and state agencies and nonprofit organizations (such as Maine Audubon and The Nature Conservancy) work together to share critical wildlife habitat information with towns and local land trusts. Beginning with Habitat (BwH) serves all of Maine, but it has been a particularly valuable tool for coastal communities, according to Maine Coastal Program staff member, Liz Hertz, who serves on the BwH steering committee. "Many coastal zone towns are experiencing intense development," says Hertz, "and they need good information to make informed decisions. The Beginning with Habitat data can help them in developing sound comprehensive plans and open space plans, and in conducting subdivision reviews."

To date, approximately 70 coastal zone communities have received BwH presentations and maps.

"Seeing the BwH maps has made people more aware of the value of what they have in their town," reflects Hertz. "Sharing this information, within towns and across municipal borders, can help communities to grow in ways that preserve those qualities." To make its data more accessible, the BwH Program is planning to develop an internet mapping service that would allow people to access and manipulate its data on-line. The Program also is compiling material specific to

nearshore coastal habitats—mapping species such as horseshoe crabs, wintering waterfowl, eelgrass, and diadromous fish.

For Hertz, who has been a senior planner with the Coastal Program four years (and with the State Planning Office an additional four years), work with the BwH Program is very satisfying. "I've always looked at projects and programs from an interdisciplinary approach," she says, "so this is a great fit." Hertz works on several other interdisciplinary projects as well, supporting regional planning among coastal towns, and chairing the Gulf of Maine Council's Working Group. Some regional planning efforts, she notes, are taking advantage of BwH data to map how water bodies, valuable habitat and wildlife corridors cross town borders. Hertz is particularly encouraged by an effort underway in which twelve midcoast towns are working to devise a shared strategy to preserve open space and rural resources.



Prior to the launch of BwH, Hertz notes, studies of wildlife habitat weren't well coordinated and towns didn't always have access to the information they needed. It was a huge step forward, she says, "bringing together different partners to work on a single set of maps and a coordinated approach to presenting information. By working to combine our data, we were able to leverage the value of information. This project couldn't have come to fruition," Hertz notes, "without the collaboration among the partners. That's really grown and developed over the years into a rich and rewarding effort."

Grants Available for Coastal Habitat Restoration

Alongside the habitat conservation work done by Beginning with Habitat, the Coastal Program and its partners support habitat restoration projects in marine, coastal and riverine environments. Grants for local restoration projects are available through a partnership of the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Since 2002, this Partnership has granted roughly \$1.2 million for local projects within the Gulf of Maine (with each grant requiring a 1:1 match of non-federal funds). Typical projects

include dam removal or restoration of salt marsh or subtidal (e.g., eelgrass and clam) habitats.

Grants are reviewed once a year, with a Letter of Intent requested on October 1 and final proposals due in mid-November. Grant amounts generally are capped at \$25,000 for planning and feasibility work, and \$50,000 for on-the-ground implementation. For additional information, see the Partnership's web portal at <http://restoration.gulfofmaine.org> or contact Jon Kachmar at the Maine Coastal Program (207-287-1913 or jon.kachmar@maine.gov).



Scott Fendler/Maine DMR

Working Waterfront Update

Maine voters passed two ballot referenda in November supporting working waterfronts. Nearly 3 out of 4 voters (73 percent) approved Question 7, a constitutional amendment that will allow the waterfront land used by commercial fishermen to be taxed based on its current use of fishing rather than its development potential. Two out of three Maine voters supported Question 5, which renews funding for the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program and provides \$2 million to help fishermen purchase working waterfront properties.

Over the next two years, the \$2 million dedicated to working waterfront preservation will go to fund several strategically significant lands and facilities that support Maine's fishing industry. The Department of Marine Resources is coordinating this pilot program, in conjunction with the LMF Board, the State Planning Office and the Department of Transportation. The Program will award grants covering up to 50 percent of acquisition costs for properties that provide permanent commercial fishing access. For more information on the Pilot Program, contact Jim Connors (jim.connors@maine.gov or 287-8938).

State Awards Grants to 13 Towns for Shore and Harbor Projects

Through the combined efforts of the Maine Coastal Program and the Submerged Lands Program at the Department of Conservation (DOC), 13 coastal zone communities recently received more than \$164,000 for projects that promote sound harbor planning and management, marine infrastructure improvements and shore access. Funds for this one-time offering were contributed by the DOC's Submerged Lands Fund. Each grant required a 25 percent local match, and grant awards ranged from \$3,800 to \$25,000. The communities receiving Shore and Harbor grants were Bath, Belfast, Castine, Cranberry Isles, Ellsworth, Harrington, Machiasport, Mt. Desert, Rockland, Rockport, St. George, Stockton Springs and Westport Island.

Maine Coastal Waters Conference 2006

Monday April 10, 2006
Samoset Resort, Rockport

The Maine Coastal Program and partner organizations and agencies are helping to organize an all-day event for those who manage, study and love the Maine coast, with informative talks and discussion sessions on a wide range of coastal topics:

- our changing coast;
- water quality/toxics;
- coastal habitats;
- land use and coastal regulations;
- diadromous fish; and
- emerging issues.

For more information, visit www.coastalwaters2006.com.

Partners in planning the conference include the Maine State Planning Office, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Sea Grant College Program, US Fish & Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Program, Friends of Casco Bay, Town of Brunswick, US Geological Survey and Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve.



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The Maine Coastal Program represents a partnership of local, regional and state agencies that work collaboratively to enhance management of the state's diverse coastal resources. Housed at the State Planning Office, Coastal Program staff work extensively with governmental agencies and community organizations such as local land trusts and regional economic development groups. Planning and outreach focus on such issues as watershed management, development issues, fisheries management, water quality monitoring, marine education, citizen stewardship, coastal hazards, marine infrastructure and habitat protection.

For more information on the Maine Coastal Program, please visit our website at www.maineoceanprogram.org.

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